

From: R Carlson
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/13/02 12:00pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

January 9, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I would like to express my opinion regarding the recent settlement in the Microsoft Anti -Trust case. First of all, this whole case was ridiculous and is clearly an attempt on the part of some of the Microsoft competitors to invalidate the competitive advantages of Microsoft and steal their intellectual property. The government has been erroneously dragged in to a technical discussion it does not have the ability to moderate nor does it have any business intervening in the affairs of a private company. However, what's done is done and this settlement should be the final end to this mess. Spending more time further evaluating the details of the settlement is a waste of money. The most recent judicial decision just complicates and extends the whole silly case. With the existing recession and our newly rediscovered partisan politics our economy can't stand to have our IT industry continue to be burdened in this manner.

I am currently retired, but was involved in the computer industry for nearly 30 years, the last 15 of which were as a CEO of a public computer company. I was closely involved with Microsoft products and still use them for my daily computer use. Given our free enterprise system, I am free to use whichever products I see fit, and nothing Microsoft has done precludes me from using whatever software and hardware I choose to use. Like thousands of other Americans, I use Microsoft because it is easy to use, and more importantly it provides a standard which encourages the rest of the industry to provide compatible products. It is my belief it is these standards issues that have allowed us to become the premier technical and business country on the planet. The settlement will make it even easier for non-Microsoft products to be used on people's computers. Additionally, Microsoft will be handing over their coding and interface design (Which is intellectual property) to help their competitors compete more fairly(Unfairly??) in the market. I don't see what more could be asked of Microsoft. Please make sure this settlement is respected and that this lawsuit is put to an end.

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Sincerely,

Robert A. Carlson

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